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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 159
11 December 1953

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1. The following were present:

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Mr. Clinton
Major Jacobson
Lt. Stallings
Lt. Col. Rush
Lt. Sheldon

State
Army
Navy
Air Force
Air Force
CIA (Chairman)

2. The Chairman called upon the members for a report of their Agencies' positions on the proposals for classification of NIS materials. (See NIS Committee Meeting No. 158). The members reported the following:

State: The Department of State has not reached a decision relative to the Executive Order on classification. It was the member's opinion that this decision would not be made until 15 December, on which date the Executive Order becomes effective.

Army: The Army member felt that the Department of the Army's position would be in accord with the proposals.
/Note: By memorandum to DCI of 14 December 1953, the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, requested that all NIS material produced by the Department of the Army be classified "Confidential" or higher, and recommended that Gazetteers be unclassified./

Navy: The Navy member felt his Department's position would be similar to Army's. He will transmit an official memorandum as soon as a final decision is reached.

Air Force: The Air Force member delivered two memoranda, dated 10 December 1953, and addressed to DCI, which state it is the decision of the Director of Intelligence, USAF, that all Air Force material in the NIS shall be classified not lower than "Confidential"; and which recommend that NIS Gazetteers be declassified.

The Chairman stressed that official positions of all Agencies be reported to him in writing not later than 15 December so that a memorandum on NIS classification might be sent to all users of the NIS.

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3. Chapter I on Iran

The members reported a most favorable reaction within their Agencies to the prototype map for Chapter I. (See NIS Committee Meeting No. 158). Suggestions for improvement in details of the map will be held pending a final review of the first draft of Chapter I, scheduled for early January 1954.

The Committee decided to defer consideration of Chapter I production schedule for other areas until the first meeting in January. The State member submitted a list of areas on which his Agency would be in a position to proceed. Members were requested to consider these areas in their proposals for a tentative production schedule.

4. Request for NIS

The Chairman distributed copies of a request from Foreign Operations Administration, together with statement of justification, under date of 4 December 1953, for all sections of NIS 9 (Spain). He requested that members notify him of their Agencies' positions so that he could lay the matter before the IAC Secretariat for IAC approval.

The Committee decided to defer action on the request of the European Radio Frequency Agency (a NATO component) for certain NIS Gazetteers until decision had been reached on their classification.

5. Revised Outline for Section 45

The revision for Outline on Section 45 (Health and Sanitation), as submitted by the Army member at NIS Committee Meeting No. 157, was approved by the Committee for a working level guide. A final Outline to be incorporated into the NIS Standard Instructions will be developed from this Outline as a result of further production experience. The State member suggested certain minor editorial corrections which the Army member is to consider in preparing the final draft of the Outline.

6. NIS Production for November

The Chairman reviewed the status of NIS production for November, and pointed out that the cumulative production from July to November, inclusive, showed only 64% fulfillment of numerical commitments. Members were asked to give their opinions on prospects for the remainder of the fiscal year in terms of fulfillment of Agencies' commitments:

State (with 63% fulfillment of numerical commitments to 30 Nov 53). Defections to date have been caused by adjustments resulting

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from reductions in force, which have brought many new people into the NIS work. While the total capability of State for NIS production has not been reduced, the period of adjustment has temporarily set back NIS production. The State member is of the opinion that State will generally meet its commitments for the year.

Army (with 45% fulfillment of numerical commitments to 30 Nov 53). Army's production has been set back because of other requirements, but G-2 has taken the position that Army will fully meet its commitments for the year, barring unforeseen requirements.

Navy (with 181% fulfillment of numerical commitments to 30 Nov 53). The Navy member stood on the record.

Air Force (with 58% fulfillment of numerical commitments to 30 Nov 53). The Air Force member stated that with the Air Force contributions to be turned in by Army on 15 January, Air Force should be up to schedule.

7. Omission of Sections 33 and 35

The Committee approved an Army proposal submitted to members at the NIS Committee meeting of 8 December 1953, relative to the omission of production requirements for Sections 33 (Inland Waterways) and Sections 35 (Ports and Naval Facilities) on certain NIS areas as set forth in the following:

"1. Army requests that the NIS Committee recognize the conditions indicated with respect to NIS areas listed in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 below, and authorize the NIS treatment recommended.

"2. Section 35 is not required on the following land locked areas:

6	16	19	92
15	18	57	93

"3. Section 33 is not required on the following areas which have no navigable inland waterways:

25	68	83	29*
63	69	84	31
64	81	101	32
67	82	103	49

* Areas listed in last column have been reported previously as falling in this category.

see Army memo dtd 4 Dec (Army Program file)

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"4. Inland Waterways are not of sufficient significance to warrant treatment as Section 33; information will be included in Section 30 for the following areas:

28M	59	87	93
50	78	88	96
51	79	89	97
56	80	92	98."

8. The Chairman requested that the members give further thought to determining a firm set of criteria for developing NIS sections under the Maintenance Program. He felt that too often production was initiated under the Maintenance Program without due consideration to all the factors involved. In general terms, the requirements for the maintenance of NIS sections can be stated as follows:

a. The published section has serious qualitative deficiencies.

b. The published section has important intelligence gaps which subsequent collection effort has filled.

c. The published section no longer reflects the fundamental situation prevailing in the area.

This matter will be taken up for full consideration at an early meeting.

9. The next meeting of the NIS Committee was set for 1000 hours on Tuesday, 22 December 1953.

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